

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 4 and 8-10 have been amended herein. Favorable reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit herewith replacement sheets for Figures 1-4, which have been revised to include the legend "Conventional Art" as requested by the Examiner.

I. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 4-6 UNDER 35 USC §112, 2nd ¶

Claims 4-6 stand rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Specifically, the Examiner notes that there is insufficient antecedent basis for "the reference voltage".

As pointed out by the Examiner, claim 4 depends more properly from claim 3 and has been amended accordingly. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1, 2 AND 8-10 UNDER 35 USC §102(b)

Claims 1, 2 and 8-10 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) based on Sho. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection for at least the following reasons.

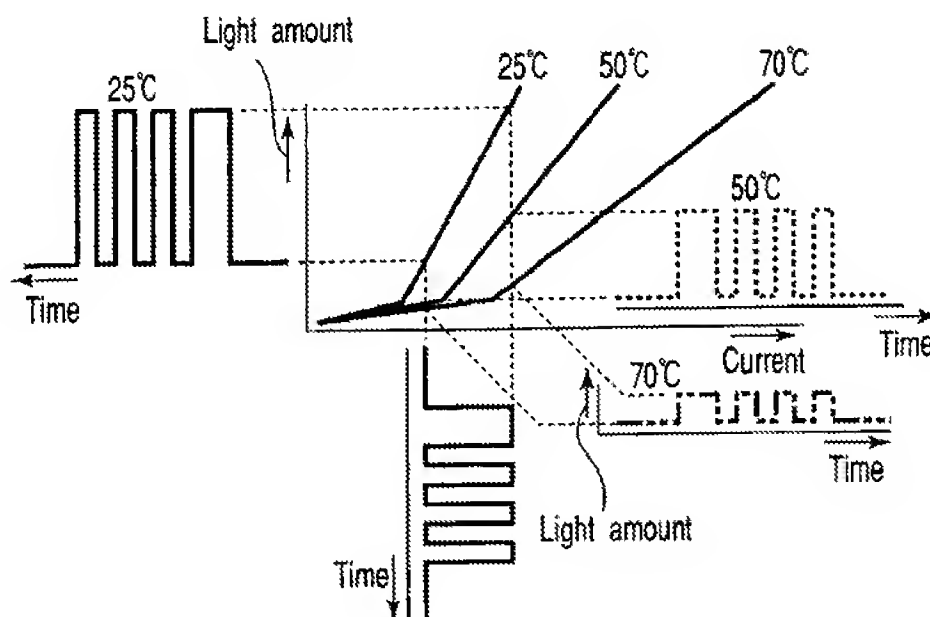
Independent claims 1 and 8-10 have been amended to recite the following additional features:

1. The laser driving section and the laser are connected in series;
2. The source voltage is supplied to one end of one of the laser driving section and the laser; and
3. The voltage control section controls the voltage value of the source voltage so that the voltage values at a first temperature becomes lower than the voltage value at a second temperature which is lower than the first temperature.

See, e.g., Fig. 6 and Paragraph [0061] of the present application.

Sho describes an optical disc drive and laser beam drive power supply voltage and method. Sho addresses the problem whereby light waveforms with different laser beam amounts are generated due to a change in temperature of the laser diode. (See, e.g., [0033]).

Although Sho discusses that the power supply voltage level to be supplied to the laser drive section is controlled in accordance with the temperature level (e.g., [0034]), Sho does not clearly describe how to control the power supply voltage level.



[SHO]

FIG. 8

Referring to Fig. 8 of Sho (reproduced above), it is necessary to supply a higher current to obtain a larger amount of light when the temperature is relatively high (e.g., 70°C). Thus, the power supply voltage control circuit supplies a higher voltage

On the other hand, when the temperature is relatively low (e.g., 25°C), a lower current is necessary to obtain a smaller amount of light in order to maintain the amount

of light constant. At this time, the power supply voltage control circuit supplies a lower voltage.

Hence, Sho teaches that the voltage value at a first temperature (e.g., 70°C) is **higher** (e.g., see increased current level in Fig. 8) than the voltage value at a second temperature (e.g., 25°C) which is lower than the first temperature.

Conversely, amended claims 1 and 8-10 each define a laser driving device or method in which the voltage control section controls the voltage value of the source voltage so that the voltage value at the first temperature becomes **lower** than the voltage value at the second temperature. Thus, Sho teaches directly opposite the claimed invention.

For at least these reasons, applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by the teachings of Sho. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

III. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 3-7 UNDER 35 USC §103(a)

Claims 3 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) based on Sho in view of applicants' admitted prior art (AAPA). Claims 4-6 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) based on Sho alone. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 USC §103(a) based on Sho in view of Matsushita et al. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal each of these rejections for at least the following reasons.

Claims 3-7 each depend from claim 1 either directly or indirectly, and may be distinguished over the teachings of Sho for at least the same reasons recited above. Moreover, AAPA and Matsushita et al. have not been found to make up for the deficiencies in Sho.

Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn.

IV. CONCLUSION

Accordingly, all claims 1-10 are believed to be allowable and the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone interview would be helpful to facilitate favorable prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Should a petition for an extension of time be necessary for the timely reply to the outstanding Office Action (or if such a petition has been made and an additional extension is necessary), petition is hereby made and the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees (including additional claim fees) to Deposit Account No. 18-0988.

Respectfully submitted,

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